A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G06F3/06 G06F G06F12/02 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) G06F IPC 7 G11C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X WO OO 49488 A (MEMORY CORP PLC ; GOROBETS -3.8.9SERGEY ANATOLIEVICH (GB); TAYLOR RICHARD) AF 24 August 2000 (2000-08-24) page 2 -page 11; claims 1,7-9,21 page 55 -page 56 page 3-11 EP 1 031 929 A (HEWLETT PACKARD CO) 1.4 - 730 August 2000 (2000-08-30) AE abstract; figure 1 page 3 -page 17 the whole document 2,3,8,9 US 5 598 370 A (ASANO HIDEO ET AL) X 1,2 28 January 1997 (1997-01-28) AC abstract; figures 1,5 column 1-3 column 1-3 3,8,9 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. other means document published prior to the international filing date but "&" document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 23 October 2003 06/11/2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Trifonov, A Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016



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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. US 6 377 500 B1 (FUJIMOTO AKIHISA ET AL) 1,8 23 April 2002 (2002-04-23) the whole document

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